The Seagull

By

Anton Chekhov

In a new version by

Christopher Hampton

Sidetrack Theatre 4th – 27th June, 2010

Cast:

Robert Alexander	Dorn
Stephanie Begg	Maid
Zoë Carides	Arkadina
Katharine Cullen	Masha
Matt Edgerton	Trigorin
Kade Greenland	Medvedenko
Lincoln Hall	Yakov
Monroe Reimers	Shamreyev
Lizzie Schebesta	Nina
Genevieve Mooy	Polina
Nicholas Papademetriou	Sorin
Josh Wakely	Konstantin

Director/Producer	Kate Gaul
Designer	Andy McDonell
Lighting Designer	Luiz Pampolha
Composer/Sound	Daryl Wallis
Assistant Director	Lara Kerestes
Associate Designer	Maggie Brink
Stage Manager	Lincoln Hall

Technician	Tim Edmond
Production Photographer	Heidrun Löhr
Publicist	Siobhan Waterhouse

The action takes place in the house and gardens of Sorin's estate. There is an interval of two years between Acts Three and Four.

Anton Chekhov - Writer

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860 –1904) Russian short story writer, playwright and physician, considered as one of the greatest short-story writers in the history of world literature. In the theatre he was especially fond of vaudevilles and French farces and he began by writing hilarious one-act plays, but it is his full-length tragi-comic plays – *Ivanov, The Seagull, Three Sisters, Uncle Vanya* - that have secured him a place among the greatest dramatists of all time. Chekhov practised as a doctor throughout his life: "Medicine is my lawful wife", he once said, "and literature is my mistress."

After Rebikov

The sound of a melancholy waltz played from a distant room has become a quintessential Checkovian sonic signature. The music of Vladmir Rebikov, a contemporary of Chekhov and celebrated salon composer, seemed an ideal place to start building the musical palette for our production of The Seagull, but the parallels in his life and art to the issues Konstantin struggles with in the play made for both a poignant and ironic match. Rebikov strove to invent new forms and harmonic language, despaired at the success of composers he felt had stolen his ideas, and struggled to create large scale musical structures out of his intuitive process of 'pure emotion'. It seems sadly apt to hear our Konstantin wrestling with Rebikov's mood pictures on the piano, striving for that elusive state where 'words end and where emotion reigns supreme'.

Siren Theatre Co

Siren Theatre Co is an independent project based theatre company in Sydney. In a cross section of work includes classics, contemporary drama and premieres of new plays Siren Theatre Co's audiences range from adults, students and families. These works challenge us artistically and inspire audiences with bold imaginative experiences. In 2010 Siren Theatre Co has already created – in association with Monkey Baa – the children's opera *Fox* which is currently on a National Tour. Siren Theatre Co will also develop Chris Aronsten's *The Lunch Hour* and *As You Like It* for Carriage works - April 2011

Productions:

2010 ***Fox*** – in association with Monkey Baa. Composer Daryl Wallis an adaptation of the children's book by Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks Currently on tour around Australia
2009 ***Richard 3*** by William Shakespeare
2008 ***Twelfth Night*** by William Shakespeare
2006 ***Duck*** by Stella Feehily
2006 ***Human Resources*** by Chris Aronsten
2005 ***Rice Pudding*** by Ashley Walker
2004 ***eeni meeni mini mo*** – devised by the company
2003 ***Frozen*** by Michael O'Brien
2001 ***Blue Heart*** by Caryl Churchill
2001 ***Connie + Kevin + the Secret Life of Groceries*** by Noelle Janasz
2000 ***Wanna Go Home, Baby?*** – devised by the company
1999 ***Polly Blue*** by Belinda Bradley
1998 ***Hard Swallow*** by Mirra Todd
1997 ***Killers Head*** – 3 One act plays

www.sirentheatreco.com

Tonight's performance will play for approximately 2 hours, 20 minutes including a 20 minute interval.

Siren Theatre Co would like to thank the following people without whom this production would not have been possible: Rosalie Lester, NIDA, Little Hero PR, Greg Khoury and Century Venues, Monkey Baa, Michael Cutrupi, Flowers by Theresa

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Robert Alexander - Dorn

Robert was an Associate Artist of Bell Shakespeare. Productions: *Titus Andronicus, Merchant of Venice, Measure For Measure, Wars Of The Roses, The Comedy Of Errors, The Servant Of Two Masters, As You Like It, Hamlet, Richard 3, Antony And Cleopatra and Julius Caesar.* Robert was a founding member of The Hunter Valley Theatre Company: productions include *The Floating World, The Glass Menagerie, Equus, Bedfellows, A Happy And Holy Occasion, Flexi Time and Educating Rita.* As a member of the Nimrod Theatre Company he has appeared in 20 productions including *Richard III, Inner Voices, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, Treasure Island, The Sea, Tales From Vienna Woods, The Suicide, As You Like It* and *Variations.* Other theatre credits include *Torch Song Trilogy,* for which he won a Green Room Award, *Heroes, I Sent A Letter To My Love, The Last Yankee* and *The Threepenny Opera* (QTC); *Otherwise Engaged, Memory Of Water, All Things Considered* and *Daylight Saving* for Marian Street Theatre; *The Sunny South, Hamlet, Henry IV (Part 1), The Mortal Falcon, An Ideal Husband, Away, All My Sons, Three Sisters, Nicholas Nickleby, Six Degrees Of Separation, Dead White Males & Travesties* (STC); *What The Butler Saw, A Month In The Country and The Seagull* (SASTC); and *Accidental Death Of An Anarchist* for The Winter Theatre Company of Fremantle. Robert's television credits include *King Lear, Spring And Fall, Learned Friends, Funeral Games, Minder Down Under, Heartland, Police Rescue, All Saints, Murder Call, Big Sky, The Whipping Boy, Home And Away, Neighbours, Richmond Hill* & (soon to be released) *Dance Academy.* Robert has appeared in the films Empty Beach, *Never Tell Me Never and Muriel's Wedding.*

Zoë Carides – Irina Arkardina

Zoë's extensive theatre credits includes: *Love Letters* (NIDA company), *The Vagina Monologues* (Adelaide Festival and Sydney), *The Idiot* (SASTC), *Mike Leigh's Greek Tragedy* (Belvoir St/ Edinburgh Int. Festival), *The Suitors* (Old Fitzroy), *Grounds For Marriage* (Takeaway Theatre), *Anna in the Tropics* (B Sharp), *Away* (STC) and *David Williamson's Influence* (STC) - Helpmann Award 2005. She's just worked with Academy Award-winning director Steven Soderbergh in his play, *Tot Mom,* (STC) and will appear in *Murderers* at Ensemble later this year. Films include *Death in Brunswick, Shotgun Wedding, Beware of Greeks Bearing Guns, Brilliant Lies* (AFI nomination), and *The Black Balloon.* On the small screen, her favourite roles have been - as Doctor Sonia Kapek: G.P., council worker Liz Murray: Grassroots (series 1 & 2), and roles in *All Saints, White Collar Blue, Wildside, My Husband My Killer, Out of the Blue,* and most recently as 'Mama' in the HBO series *The Pacific.* Zoë is also a writer and filmmaker: her short film *Gifted* enjoyed some festival success, and she's currently in the process of completing another.

Katharine Cullen - Masha

Katharine's (NIDA 2008) theatre credits include *The Way of the World, A Month in the Country, Brecht for Schools, Gallipolli* (STC); *Humble Boy, I ought to be in Pictures* (Ensemble) and a workshop production of *Summerfolk* and in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (B Sharp). At NIDA: *Julius Caesar, The Wood Demon, Love for Love, Days of Significance, Wet and Dry, The Private Life of the Master Race, The Stronger and Our Country's Good.* Katharine has also performed in *The Vagina Monologues* and worked with Australian writers at the 2009 Australian National Play Festival. Film/TV: *The Girl From Tomorrow/The Girl from Tomorrow Part II: Tomorrow's End, Tracey McBean, The Adventures of Sam, House Gang, Hill's End, Outbreak of Hostilities, A Girl's Own Story and Mad Max III.* Katharine will perform in Joe Hortua's *Between Us* at Ensemble.

Matt Edgerton - Trigorin

Matt (WAAPA 1999), Theatre credits include: *Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth* and *Actors At Work* (Bell Shakespeare), *Lessons In Flight* (Moogalin Theatre), *As You Wish, Birds In a Cage* (Red Dust Theatre - NT), *Love Potions* (New Theatre), *Little Boy* (Tamarama Rock Surfers), *Tales From the Arabian Nights* (Theatre of Image) *Tracked* (Prompt Theatre); *Wild Honey* (Suck It and See), *Plainsong* (Black Swan Theatre), *Measure For Measure, The Winters Tale* (*Old Wives Tales*). Film credits include: *Natural Selection, Outside, The Junction Boys,* and *Enigma.* On television Matt has appeared in: *All Saints, Comedy Inc, Always Greener* and *Water Rats.* For ABC radio Matt has voiced short stories, novels and radio plays including: *The Stain on the Snow* (Georges Simenon), *The White Earth* (Andrew McGahan), *Damon, Shootings, The Time is Not Yet Ripe, Chrissy and Jules* (Dorothy Hewett), *Pentimento* (Steven Sewell) and *The Hammer of God* (Louis Nowra). Matt is the current Resident Artist In Education for Bell Shakespeare.

Stephanie Begg – Maid

Stephanie trained at Atlantic Theatre Company in New York. Theatre credits: *The Importance of Being Earnest, The Crucible* (Seymour Centre's BITE) *Faraway* (STC), *The Children's Hour; Twelfth Night ; Much ado about Nothing, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest, When She Danced, Alice is Missing, Devolution, sing a song of sixpence, Bugsy Malone, Oliver, The Sorcerer* and *The Zoo.* TV/ film: *Sketchmen; Australia's Funniest Home Video's, The Silence* (ABC), *The Hobby Farm.* Stephanie recently completed post-production on her directorial debut short film *The Shack.*

Kade Greenland - Medvedenko

Kade (VCA 2009) started his theatre career singing 'Any Dream Will Do' whilst dressed as an enormous Bible in his primary school production of *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat*. Whilst studying a Bachelor of Law at UQ, he played Melchoir in *Spring Awakening*, Governor John Slaton in the musical Parade at QPAC. At VCA: *Three Sisters, Manbeth* (an adaptation of *Macbeth*), *Mud*, and *Traps*. Kade is returning to Melbourne for a short stint to perform in a remount of *Manbeth*.

Lincoln Hall – Yakov/Stage Manager

Lincoln (NIDA Singer Dancer Actor 2008/ Bell Shakespeare Regional Scholarship). Assistant director *Angels in America* (Riverside Theatres), *The Jungle, Macbeth* (Darlinghurst Theatre), *Mrs Petrov's Shoe* (New Theatre). 2009 - scholarship to New York: Lincoln participated in music theatre master classes, and developed and performed a cabaret. He has appeared in a children's adventure series *Castaway* in Broome (Ch 7).

Genevieve Mooy - Polina

Genevieve has worked extensively in Australian Theatre, Film and TV since graduating from NIDA (too many decades ago!). She has worked for the major theatre companies around Australia and over the last few years has been involved in the Independent theatre scene in Sydney. Recent Productions: Laura Ruohonen's *Queen C* (B Sharp) in which her performance in the role of Queen Mother was nominated for the Best Supporting Actress Award by the Sydney Theatre Critics 2008; *Richard III* (Siren Theatre Co). In 2010 Genevieve will appear in Mick Malloy's *Jesters* for Movie network and a National tour of *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*.

Nicholas Papademetriou - Sorin

Nicholas (WAAPA 1984) has worked for most theatre companies around Australia including STCSA, Doppio Teatreo, The Ensemble, MTC, STC, Company B, La Boite and WATC. Theatre highlights include the national and overseas tour of Mike Leigh's *Greek Tragedy*, the tour of his one man show *SNAG* in London, New York and Edinburgh; the national tour of *12 Angry Men* and *Anna In The Tropics* (B Sharp). Recent work includes Aziz in *Homebody/Kabul* (Tangent/B Sharp), *Miss Reardon Drinks A Little* (Darlinghurst Theatre) . This year he played a leading role in *The Swimming Club* (MTC). Films include *MI2, Road, The Night We Called It a Day, Two Nights, Death in Brunswick* and *Bad News Bachelors*. TV: a guest in most of the major Australian productions and has had main roles in the series *Cyclone Tracy, Stringer, Grass Roots, Stark, All Saints, Home and Away* and *My Place*. Directing credits: *Measure for Measure* (STS), *Ivanov* (WAAPA) and *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Darlinghurst Theatre. In 2010 he will direct *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Darlinghurst Theatre).

Monroe Reimers - Shamreyev

Monroe (NIDA 1977) has played numerous roles in all forms of media. His last stage appearance was as Mr. Shah in the 2009 NIDA graduate production of *East is East*. Monroe is also a sought after Voice and Speech teacher having developed a course for professional speakers called *Speaking English with a Neutral Accent*.

Josh Wakely - Konstantin Treplev

Josh (WAAPA 2005) has appeared in films *Ironbird*, Stephen King's *Nightmare* and Dreamscapes; Telemovie *Scorched* and *All Saints*. As writer his screenplay *Draftin'* (producer Rosemary Blight, Goalpost Productons) will be in production this year. He has written for Tim Winton's TV series *Lockie Leonard* and is creating the comedy *Road to Damascus* with members of the Chaser team. Josh has several film scripts in development and a novel *A Type of Remembering* will be published by Pan Macmillen.

Lizzie Schebesta - Nina

Lizzie's (WAAPA 2009) student credits include *Uncle Vanya, Top Girls,Coram Boy* and *Richard III*. Since graduating, she appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream, (Sport* for Jove Theatre), and Girl in *S-27* (Griffin Independent)

Kate Gaul - Director/Producer

Kate (NIDA 1996 – Director's Course) and Anne Bogart/SITI Company NYC. Kate is currently the Festival Director for *World Interplay*. In 2004/5 Kate was the Associate director at the Ensemble Theatre where productions include *The Violet Hour, Kimberly Akimbo and Lobby Hero*. Other directing credits include *The Gates of Egypt, Our Lady of Sligo, Run Rabbit Run, The Laramie Project, Svetlana in Slingbacks* (Company B), *Carmen* (Oz Opera), *The Altar Boyz* (Ovations Live), *Camarilla* (Merrigong Theatre Co) *Coup D'Etat* (MTC), *Wicked Sisters* (Griffin/National tour), *Rabbit* (Griffin Theatre) and projects for all major drama schools- most recently *Dialogues of the Carmelites* (WAAPA). Kate is the Artistic Director of Siren Theatre Co . Kate has also written and directed two short films *Embrace* and *Cake*.

Christopher Hampton - Writer

Christopher Hampton – British playwright, screen writer and director. His plays, musicals and translations have garnered four Tony Awards, Two Olivier Awards, four Evening Standard Awards and the New York Theatre Critics Circle Award while prizes for his film and television work include an Academy Award, two BAFTAs, a Writer's Guild of America Award, the Prix Italian and a Special Jury Award at the Cannes Film Festival. He's quite fabulous and very famous.

Lara Kerestes – Assistant Director

Lara (UNSW - BA arts/Theatre Performance Studies and French) founded Squeaky Floor Productions. She is Creative and Administrative Director. With Squeaky Floor Productions Lara will nurture an encouraging an innovative space for emerging artists to explore and create unique works without limitations. Directing credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest, A Squeaky Cabaret, Hilary Bell's Wolf Lullaby*, the sell out season of Kander and Ebb's *Cabaret*, Johanna Murray-Smith's *Bombshells*. Lara was Assistant Director on Siren Theatre Co's *Richard III*.

Andy McDonell - Designer

Andy McDonell (NIDA 2007) began working on theatre and film in 1999. He has extensive experience in props and model making, set building, sculpting and special effects working on *Theft of Sita, Olympic Opening Ceremony, Yeperena Festival, Ned, Farscape, Kangaroo Jack, The Matrix, The Fountian, Starwars* and *Stealth* before disappearing for a year to help build a straw bale house somewhere. Design Credits include *Carmen* (Sydney Theatre), *The Bee* (Darlinghurst Theatre), *You Cant Buy My Soul* (State Theatre/Sydney Festival), *My Name is Rachel Corrie* (B Sharp), *Altar Boyz* (Sydney and Melbourne/ Ovations Live), *Mad Bastards* (feature film release mid 2010) and the upcoming *Woman Before a Glass* (National Tour).

Luiz Pampolha – Lighting Designer

Luiz (NIDA 2003) credits: *The Story Of The Miracles At Cookie's Table, The Nightwatchman, The Kid* (Griffin), *Love-Lies-Bleeding* (Sydney Theatre Award nomination Best Lighting Design), *Rabbit, The Removalists, Saturn's Return, Waiki Hip, The 7 Stages of Grieving, Romeo & Juliet* (STC), *Antigone* (Company B), *Fox, Hitler's Daughter* (Helpmann Award for Best Presentation for Children), *The Prospectors, Milli, Jack and The Dancing Cat* (Monkey Baa), *Somewhere, Weather* (Q Theatre), *Ruben Guthrie, Love* (Sydney Theatre Award nomination Best Lighting Design), *Half & Half, Blasted, A Number, 7 Blowjobs, Now That Communism Is Dead My Life Feels Empty* (B Sharp), *This Territory, Boy Overboard, Back In Your Box, Three Little Fears* (ATYP), *Cloud 9, The Illusion, The Drowned World, Bone, The Mystery of Irma Vep, Love's Triumph, Bangers & Mash, The No Chance In Hell Hotel* (Darlinghurst Theatre Co), *Arabian Night* (NIDA Company), *Singing The Lonely Heart, The Man Who* (New Theatre), *A Couple of Blaguards* (aMck), *The CODA Collective, danceTank, Emergence* (SOH), *Constance Drinkwater And The Final Days Of Somerset, Altar Boyz* (Ovations Live) *This Blasted Earth, Little Boy, Harry's Christmas, Mother Teresa Is Dead, Tragedy: A Tragedy, The Suitors, Cu*t Pi, Thrall, Capture The Flag* (TRS). Luiz has designed and co-designed production for the Sao Paulo, Edinburgh, Belfast, Adelaide, and Melbourne International Arts Festivals.

Daryl Wallis - Composer

Daryl is a composer, keyboard musician, vocal coach and musical director. He has composed music for productions at Belvoir, Ensemble, Griffin, Merrigong, Studio, ATYP and Siren Theatre Co, the television documentary series *Heat In The Kitchen*, the award winning short film *Embrace* and a 10 minute tango-opera *An/nA*. He recently won second prize in the Melbourne Federation Bells Composing Competition an composed an operatic adaptation of the picture book *Fox* by Margaret Wild & Ron Brooks (Monkey Baa/Siren Theatre Co – currently on National tour). As pianist: *The Magic Flute, The Barber Of Seville*, and *Cinderella* (OZ Opera touring NSW Primary Schools); *The Women Of Troy* (STC) directed by Barrie Kosky. Daryl performs with jazz/soul singer Ali Hughes as *Ali and the Thieves* – recently in *The Royal Seed* (SOH - Babies Prom).

Margaret Brink – Associate Designer

Margaret Brink studied Design and Illustration at Enmore Design Centre. In addition to working extensively with traditional media for illustration and graphic design, her major projects included work in puppet design and building, furniture, and sculpture. Since graduating, Margaret has gained a broad spectrum of experience working within art departments for film, television, fashion and theatre.